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Scots night at St. Mungo's - 23 January *Story and photos - Jim Paterson*

A great crowd turned out for a Scot's Night of entertainment at St. Mungo's church hall, on Monday 23rd January. The Guild had put together a special programme with songs from the musicals and the Bard himself Robbie Burns. Throw in a couple of his poems and we had our very own Burns' night



Abbie Stenhouse, Tom Mullins, Rio Brady

We opened with the hymn 'Spirit of God unseen as the wind' to the tune of the Skye boat song, with Eileen Marchant on the piano. Compère Agnes Ovenstone then read from the book of Psalms before introducing us to our three singers, Tom Mullins and friends.

Tom was joined by Abbie Stenhouse and Rio Brady, all three having met and graduated at the MGA Academy of performing arts in Edinburgh. Tom is St. Mungo's member Joyce Hunters' grandson.

Tom started the evening off with a good old favourite, and well known Robbie Burns song, 'Red Red Rose'. Already the feet were tapping and the audience singing quietly along.

Rio Brady then took the floor to sing 'Someone to watch over me' from the 1992 romantic comedy musical 'crazy about you' with lyrics by Ira Gershwin, and music by George Gershwin. Largely based on the songwriting team's 1930 musical, Girl Crazy, the new production won the 1992 Tony Award for Best Musical.



Tom returned to the stage to sing 'Maria' from the 1957 Jerome Robbins Broadway production of Westside Story. With music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, it was inspired by the William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet.

Abbie then took to the floor for a selection of songs, with the audience were really into the swing of things now, so time to remember the 'bard' once again.

Margaret Black took to the floor to present that well known favourite 'Tae a Moose' which we all remember the opening line "Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie ". Written by Robert Burns in 1785, and was included in the Kilmarnock volume, and according to legend, Burns was ploughing in the fields and accidentally destroyed a mouse's nest, which it needed to survive the winter. In fact, Burns's brother claimed that the poet composed the poem while still holding his plough.



We stopped for tea, coffee, and a selection of cheese and biscuits with home baking. There was also the biggest slice of gateaux to follow. Calories, who cares about calories. Just enjoy yourself. Tom and Abbie told me that they had performed on cruise ships across the oceans, and Rio is going to head for sea soon too. Good sea legs required. Hang on to your cups, it

could get choppy ahead!

After the break we enjoyed another selection of music, this time from the musical Miss Saigon, based based on Puccini's opera Madame Butterfly, and similarly tells the tragic tale of a doomed romance involving an Asian woman abandoned by her American lover. Tom and Abbie played the lead parts.



Time for our second poem of the evening, this time read by Christine Jackson. "The Boy in the Train" by Mary Campbell Smith, is often remembered by the famous lines "For I ken mysel' by the queer-like smell That the next stop's Kirkcaddy!" I should know, I grew up in there with the pungent smell of linseed oil from the many linoleum works in the town.

As we progressed toward the end of the evening Tom, Abbie, and Rio got to the floor to sing a selection from Les Misérables, from

the French historical novel by Victor Hugo, first published in 1862. The musical production has run continuously in London since October 1985 – the longest-running musical in the West End and the second longest-running musical in the world. The trio sang 'Empty Chairs at Empty Tables' and 'I dreamed a dream'.



Abbie and Tom sing Les Mis

For their finale, Tom, Abbie and Rio led us in the singing of Burns's 'Auld Lang Syne', written as a poem in 1788. This had the audience joining in before providing a resounding applause for the groups outstanding performance

A great evening from the Guild, who have a wide and varied programme of events planned. visit your church website www.stmungos.freeuk.com/events to see the full calendar.

St. Mungo's Organ celebrates 130th Anniversary

Story - Jim Paterson & Graham McDonald

The pipe organ in your church celebrates its 130th anniversary in October this year. Since 1887 the organ has led the praise for tens of thousands of worshippers in Penicuik. Your church can seat 1400 members and during the 19th century records show that it was often full to capacity.



The Great Organ

Built by Miller of Perth it is one of the few unmolested fully pneumatic organs still in working order, as most have been either lost through neglect, or modified to electro pneumatic operation. A very rare item indeed, and an asset that should be cherished.

It takes a lot of work to keep this old instrument in fine fettle. It has been well looked after over the years, being rebuilt in 1900 by Hamilton, and again in 1992 by Rushworth and Dreaper, who fitted a balanced swell pedal as well. Many will remember David Loosley rebuilding the Great Organ, which included the front pipes that you can see, back in 2011.

It's also not cheap to keep in full voice. It cost some £250 and a further £111 to install in 1877. By 1992 the Rushworth rebuild cost some £9000. David Loosley rebuilt the Great Organ only in 2011 for about £5500. But that is only a third of the works he was to have carried out. We ran out of funds so the work was never carried out.



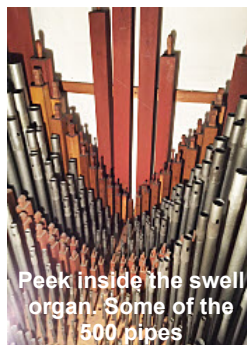
The big bad boy base pipes

The organ is in fact in three parts, the Great Organ, which you see, with about 500 pipes in total, the Swell organ which is like another organ inside which provides the magnificent uplift in voice and volume, another 500 pipes, and finally the pedal organ which has over thirty big 16 foot wooden pipes for the base notes. Over 10000 bespoke parts make up the instrument, built to order for this church. With all the stops out and at full throttle this organ is capable of rattling the windows, such is its power.

Recently the organ has suffered. Water ingress and with condensation are the biggest enemies. I empty a gallon of water from a dehumidifier in the organ nearly every 48 hours. Graham McDonald, music teacher at Beeslack, is also a piano and organ builder. Together we recently got inside to repair some cyphering (two notes playing when one key pressed, with one note continuing to play). This requires millimetre adjustments in the most

cramped of places inside. Graham also tuned the Great Organ keyboard, another tricky piece of work. We inspected the swell organ and yes it has seen water ingress too, with signs of corrosion on many of the 500 odd pipes in there.

Some of the wooden pedal organ pipes no longer play due to the wood and leather valves in the wind chest having swollen with the dampness and seized. These are particularly difficult to access and may require many of the big 16 foot pipes to be removed.



Peek inside the swell organ. Some of the 500 pipes

Graham and I have hatched a plan to use a video camera on an umbilical cord to inspect each of the pipes and valves. When we find the damaged parts we will construct special tools to try and free the seizures. A bit like keyhole surgery. Is all this worth it I hear you ask?

Remember that I said the organ cost £250 back in 1887? To build this instrument today would be well in excess of a quarter of a million pounds, over £300,000 by time it was installed. Next to the church building it is the single most precious asset we, as trustees of our church, are responsible for. It is insured, but only for complete loss. You cannot insure against fair wear and tear.

Are we bold enough to cherish what we have, for our community and future generations, or will we let our forefathers good work deteriorate beyond repair, and be lost forever? Watch this space.

Sick Kids Friends Foundation - 9 January

Report - Agnes Ovenstone

The Guild opening meeting for 2017 on Monday 9 January included Sue Diamond from The Sick Kids Friends Foundation.



The Sick Kids Friends foundation (SKFF) believe that nothing should get in the way of being a child.

They exist to transform the experiences of children and young people in hospital so they can be a child first and a patient second. For instance, children going for an operation are allowed to drive themselves to the theatre. Wow, that sounds like fun, zooming through the corridors!

The Foundation also funds many new up-to-date medical equipment, some costing thousands of pounds.

The new hospital, which will be beside the Royal Infirmary, should be opened (after some delays) early next year. The Foundation are funding a Child and adolescent Mental Health Service unit, a Drop-in Centre including complimentary therapy room, a Sanctuary and two bereavement suites.

Then there are the child protection unit, 13 play rooms, ten waiting areas, and two age appropriate rooms for young people.



It doesn't stop there. Bedside environment and patient entertainment systems for 166 beds, 44 interactive projections in treatment areas, 17 interview/waiting/sitting rooms, 9 courtyards, Snoezelen (multi sensory) room and Multi-sensory rooms for therapies.

A large number of the rooms will be for single patients although there will still be some wards. The rooms will all be named and colourfully decorated. A huge task but one which, with the enthusiasm shown by Sue, will succeed. As she said they make money simply to give it away.

We commented that any children coming to visit will want to stay. Sue says that sometimes happens.

We asked about the parking at the new hospital but she was unable to tell how that would work.

A very interesting and worthwhile evening and Sue has promised to come back next year when the hospital is open to update us.

Mungo's Diary

1 Feb, 10.45am	Friendship Circle - 13 St. James view For help with transport phone Margaret, 672347
6 Feb, 7.30pm	Guild - Ageing Well with Vivian Wallace. Church Hall.
7 Feb, 7.00pm	Congregational Board - Church
8 Feb, 7.30pm	Wednesday Housegroup. 21 Mauricewood Bank.
20 Feb, 7.30pm	Guild - Voluntary Service Overseas with Joanna Nadeau. Church Hall.
22 Feb, 7.30pm	Wednesday Housegroup. 21 Mauricewood Bank.
26 Feb, 4.00pm	Messy Church to 6.00pm. Church Hall
1 Mar, 10.45am	Friendship Circle - venue to be announced. For help with transport phone Margaret, 672347

Pastoral Care If you would like to help with visits, or request a visit, please contact Margaret 672347.